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No. 15

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 27, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUT TROOP 31

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 31, which is located in State College, Pennsylvania, Juniata Valley Council, Centre County, proudly within the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District.

With Troop 31 scheduled to celebrate this milestone on "Scout Sunday" this

coming February 2, I want to offer my praise to the generations of young men who have given their all through service to others. Chartered by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Boy Scout Troop 31 should take this time to look back on its many accomplishments.

This unit has awarded 170 Eagle Scout recognitions since it was founded, which is no surprise, considering that, in just the last 5 years, Troop 31 has racked up over 40,000 community service hours, giving back to the local community.

As the former president of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council and a long-time scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop in the same county, it has been an honor for me to observe the success of State College Troop 31.

The adult leadership of Troop 31, including scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, troop committee members, merit badge counselors, and parents are to be congratulated for 100 years of molding boys into men through the principles and the values of Scouting.

The countless boys that have hiked the Scouting trail as members of Troop 31 have gone on to become productive members of their communities, leaders in business, and outstanding citizens.

This Scouting unit has exemplified the vision of Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell when he stated, "It is the spirit within, not the veneer without, that makes a man."

Mr. Speaker, Boy Scout Troop 31 deserves our praise and thanks for their service and sacrifice.

Congratulations on this historic milestone.

SYRIAN CHRISTIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last week the Drudge Report featured an article

with a striking headline, "The World's Most Ancient Christian Communities Are Being Destroyed—and No One Cares." This sentiment was expressed in no uncertain terms yesterday at an event in my district at St. John the Beloved in McLean, Virginia.

People from around the Greater Washington, D.C., area gathered to hear directly from five senior Syrian Christian leaders, part of a delegation from the war-ravaged country and the first of its kind that I know of to visit the U.S. since the hostilities began. These men will speak at The Heritage Foundation at 1 p.m. today and will meet with Members of Congress tomorrow. Their story and that of their communities bears telling not only to policymakers, but to the American church at large, for they represent the very cradle of Christendom. They spoke movingly of their identity as Syrian Christians with ancient roots predating the apostle Paul.

Today these communities face violence, kidnapping, sexual assault, displacement, and more. According to the Barnabas Fund, which is hosting this delegation, an estimated 600,000 Christians in Syria have already fled the country or lost their lives. Of course, general violence plagues Syria, but this ancient Christian community finds itself targeted by Islamist elements in the country, including a significant number of foreign jihadists who have flocked to the battlefield.

Several messages emerged at the talk yesterday, but one held particular relevance for the faith community in America. These Syrian Christian leaders made a plea for engagement from the church in the West. Specifically, they sought for American churches to "adopt" specific Syrian churches—to commit to praying on their behalf and advocating for them when possible. The need is great, but so too is the opportunity.

The plight of Christians in Syria, while horrific, is in some respects a

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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